THE PORT AUTHORITY OF NY & NJ Memorandum

To: John Urinyi, Manager, WT&ED Construction
From: Joseph Panebianco
Date: March 19, 1991
Subject: ASBESTOS AT PORT AUTHORITY FACILITIES

Reference: Memo - Richard Peduto to Asbestos Advisory Council dated March 22, 1991 (Copy Attached)
Copy To: J. Iglesias, J. Kau

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Richard Peduto advised at today's Asbestos Advisory Council meeting that each Department/Facility should develop its own method of advising tenants, contractors, and their employees to insure that inadvertent disturbance of asbestos materials does not occur.

It is very possible that placing of signs is the best way ve can protect the Port Authority from lavsuits. This is a legal, business, and health problem all rolled in one package and a quick ansver is not readily available.

I suggest that our Department review our notification procedures to our tenants and others. Attached is a "Draft" of a memo prepared by the Aviation Department for distribution to their tenants.

J. Panebianco

Joseph Panebianco, P.E.
Supervising Engineer
WT&ED Construction

JP/dr

Attachment

The Port Authority of NY & NJ Memorandum

TO: Asbestos Advisory Council
FROM: Richard Peduto
DATE: March 22, 1991
SUBJECT: ASBESTOS AT PORT AUTHORITY FACILITIES

COPY TO: F. Caggiano, D. Censullo, D. Gallagher, R. Klenk, C. Maikish, J. Vanacore

Recently, I briefed Stan Brezenoff concerning efforts that we have made to date to manage and control asbestos containing materials at our facilities.

During the briefing, however, an incident was brought to Stan's attention concerning an individual claiming to have been injured as a result of an inadvertent and unknoving disturbance of ceiling material alleged to be containing asbestos. A matter in which he expressed deep concern.

Due to the pervasiveness of asbestos containing materials at our facilities, and the number of people working for us as well as our tenants, I think it important that each of you review your procedures governing access and work activities. In so doing, we can better insure that everyone is appropriately informed prior to performing work which may result in an unnecessary disturbance of asbestos containing materials and, when disturbance is unavoidable, we will insure that work is performed by qualified personnel. This matter was recently among topics of discussion at the last Facility Coordinators' meeting held at the Staten Island Bridges on February 5, 1991.

You are encouraged to make use of the Asbestos Management and Compliance Division and other appropriate staff in revieving and modifying, where appropriate, existing procedures governing access.

I will have this topic on the agenda for the April Asbestos Advisory Council meeting and will provide some discussion about methods used at some facilities which may be useful at others.

Richard Peduto
Director
Asbestos Control Program

Dear Tenant:

As you are aware, asbestos containing materials were commonly used in building construction since the turn of the century. Sprayed-on fireproofing and acoustical plaster, insulation on pipes, heating and cooling equipment, roofing material, vinyl asbestos floor tile and carpet mastic, are examples of some common applications.

Throughout the country, the presence and management of asbestos containing material is a concern to building owners, tenants, patrons and the general public. In order to locate, identify, and assess the condition of asbestos containing material, asbestos surveys of virtually all buildings at Port Authority facilities have been undertaken. Portions of the survey as they pertain to space or premises that you occupy are available for review by you, your contractors and/or consultants, at the appropriate Facility Manager's office. The information setting forth the results of the surveys shall not be deemed a representation or warranty by the Port Authority as to the physical comprehensiveness or accuracy of the sampling techniques, the laboratory analysis of the type or amount of asbestos found, or the methodology used in assessing the risk or lack thereof.

Asbestos containing material that is properly installed, well maintained and not disturbed should be safe. Demolitions, renovations, alterations and operations and maintenance activities, and cleanup after emergency situations such as a ceiling collapse and fire damage, however, may disturb fibers and must only be performed by trained and properly certified personnel and/or by contractors licensed to perform asbestos removals.

There are applications of asbestos containing materials which are sometimes not readily apparent through mere visual observation even by trained professionals. Further, there are also a number of instances besides major alterations such as decorative changes or routine maintenance activities by which asbestos containing materials may be disturbed. Therefore, you are urged to check with the Manager's Office prior to the actual or potential disturbance of any material you suspect may contain asbestos.

In those instances in which asbestos containing material might be disturbed, Port Authority authorization must be granted prior to the initiation of the work and appropriate asbestos abatement procedures utilized. Port Authority procedures are consistent with federal requirements and generally consistent with state and local requirements.

The cooperation of all tenants, their consultants and contractors, in following appropriate asbestos abatement procedures, will not only be in compliance with various regulations, but will contribute to insure a safe environment for all building occupants.

If you have any questions relating to this subject, please do not hesitate to call _____(Name)_____, _____(Title)_____, at (____)_____.

2/1/91